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**SECRETARY OF THE STATE**  
**CONNECTICUT**

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- NEWS RELEASE -

## **BYSIEWICZ: HIGH TURNOUT DURING FIRST HOURS OF VOTING**

POLLS OPEN 6:00AM TO 8:00PM; VOTER TURNOUT COULD REACH 90%

**HARTFORD:** Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz is reporting that voter turnout has been incredibly strong across Connecticut with only minor problems at the polls.

Connecticut's 883 polling places will be open until 8:00PM this evening. Under state law any voter in line at the polls by 8:00PM will be allowed to vote.

"Polls across Connecticut are officially open," said Bysiewicz. It is time to vote for our next president, representatives in Congress and the state legislature as well as registrar of voters. There are also two constitutional questions are on the top of the ballot and many towns have budgetary and charter revision questions. Make your voice heard and vote."

Bysiewicz continued: "Turnout across the state has been very strong so far. It is possible that by the close of the polls record numbers of Connecticut residents will have cast ballots in this historic election. First time voters should take to the polls either a current and valid photo identification that shows your name and address; or present a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address."

Secretary Bysiewicz is reminding voters that although no one can be prevented from voting if they wear a campaign button or shirt to the polls, Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-236 prohibits solicitation on behalf of any candidate or question within 75 feet of any polling place. This would prevent an individual from wearing a campaign button, t-shirt or hat into the polling place. However, once the individual removes the button or article of clothing from plain sight, the individual would be allowed to enter the polls and to vote. Once the individual leaves the polling place and the 75 foot restricted area, they could again wear the button or article of clothing.

“We want to make sure that voters are properly informed of their rights,” said Bysiewicz. “In interpreting the law, we also want to ensure that polling places remain neutral zones where voters can go and vote their conscience free of real or perceived intimidation. We understand that many voters feel passionate about the candidates they support and will want to express their opinions through their attire. This expression is protected by the Constitution; however it must be limited to areas outside the 75’ boundary for the polling place.”

Secretary Bysiewicz is encouraging voters to visit [www.Vote-EZ-CT.com](http://www.Vote-EZ-CT.com) to learn more about acceptable forms of identification or to help locate their polling place.

### **Estimated Voter Turnout as of 10:30AM**

Andover 30%  
Ansonia 25%  
Avon 32%  
Bethany 30%  
Bolton 33%  
Bozrah 27%  
Bristol 31%  
Darien 19%  
Deep River 28%  
Derby 22%  
Durham 24%  
East Granby 34%  
East Haddam 29%  
East Hampton 25%  
East Hartford 26%  
East Haven 19%  
East Lyme 28%  
Eastford 27%  
Easton 28%  
Morris 26%  
Naugatuck 25%  
New Britain 12%  
New London 28%

Newington 23%  
New Haven 30%  
Stratford 28%  
Trumbull 33%  
Vernon 24%  
Washington 39%  
Waterford 19%  
West Hartford 40%